

First, Vote Green!

Multiple surveys show that **most people support Green policies**. You know that **Greens stand for the things you value**, that we have a positive vision of a better way of organising our society. Today there is a powerful appetite for change. Electing a Green Councillor could be your contribution to making that happen – **make your first vote Green!**

Scotland's voting system means that you can safely vote for the party you really agree with, knowing that, even if not enough people show the courage of their convictions, your vote will transfer to your second choice.

But first, you have to make your First Vote Green!

Our other candidates in Midlothian



Penicuik *'We believe in building healthy, vibrant communities, not just houses'*

Helen Armstrong, ecological consultant



Bonnyrigg *'20-minute-neighborhoods will ensure all our communities' needs are within walking distance'*

Daya Feldwick, community worker and gardener



Dalkeith *'Dalkeith's community needs to be at the heart of any town centre regeneration decisions'*

Marion Black, retired nurse and social worker



Midlothian East *'We will fight for above-inflation increases in the share of the local government budget to fund local priorities'*

Bill Kerr-Smith, former community council and CAB chair



Midlothian South *'Green councillors will ensure Midlothian gets back on track to Net Zero by 2030'*

Malcolm Spaven, wind energy consultant



Midlothian Council Election 5 May 2022

Vote for Jill Simon...

... your local Green Party candidate



- Jillian grew up in Midlothian and attended Loanhead Primary and Beeslack High School;
- She has lived in Loanhead, Bilston and Auchendinny;
- Jillian ran a sustainable business for 12 years and was a finalist in two national competitions for sustainable business practice and climate adaptation;
- She now works as a business manager for a local community development trust.

Jill says: *'Midlothian West needs adequate sporting facilities such as all-weather football pitches. A healthy society benefits everyone and helps alleviate the strain on our NHS. This will be one of my main priorities.'*

'The Scottish Green Party secured free bus travel for under 21s. But we need to ensure all Midlothian towns and villages have a regular and reliable bus service, especially for people that don't have access to a car.'

'We don't need new roads. Building a new A701 across the green belt will only encourage more cars and concrete over farm land that we must protect to produce food and encourage biodiversity. I will push for proper, sustainable community-based transport alternatives to new roads.'

Housing

- House builders and land owners make **huge profits** when the Council decides which land is designated for housing.
- More of these profits should be spent on providing much needed **social and affordable housing, better local facilities** and services and **a healthier environment**.
- We believe in building **healthy, vibrant communities**, not just more houses.

Building back neighbourhoods

- Midlothian is being **suffocated by endless private housing developments** that swallow up green space and farming land and lock us in to long commutes to work, more cars and out-of-town retail developments.
- Green councillors will push for **more and better jobs, services and facilities** in Midlothian. Our vision is to **build communities** where everyone can easily reach work, schools, shops and services without getting in a car – the '20-minute-neighbourhood'.

Transport

- The Council's proposed **new A701** across Midlothian West **won't solve any transport problems**. It will just move the queues to Straiton and encourage more traffic.
- Another road through our green belt will permit **yet more land to be concreted over**. More than ever we need to **preserve that land for growing food**.
- Greens will focus on providing **jobs and service locally** so there is less need to travel.

Net Zero/climate emergency

- Midlothian has declared a Climate Emergency but **we are going backwards**. Green councillors will ensure we get back on track to Net Zero by 2030.
- Communities must be at the forefront of **combating climate change**.
- **Tackling fuel poverty** and empowering local groups to insulate homes and reduce reliance on fossil fuels are vital for Midlothian's future.
- We will pursue opportunities for the Council and community groups to **generate their own renewable energy**.

Local Council finances

- **Real increases in Council funding** We can only get the local services we need if Midlothian is properly funded. We will fight for above-inflation increases in local government spending for local priorities.
- **Increasing funding certainty** Councils need to know what their budget is for several years ahead so they can plan for delivery of local priorities.
- **Devolving taxes** Midlothian needs devolved powers to set and collect business rates locally, to ensure the vitality of our high streets and local communities.

Simon, Jillian
Scottish Green Party

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